

Governance of soil health – Some random thoughts

Project entitled “Standardization of Integrated Farming System Models for the state of Jharkhand” under World Bank sponsored NAHEP-CAAST (National Agricultural Higher Education Project – Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, Government of India conducted a guest lecture on the topic of “Governance of Soil Health – Some Random Thoughts” to enhance the knowledge of the students and faculty members. Scientist of different faculties including Director Research Dr. D. N. Singh, Dean College of Agriculture Dr. M. S. Yadava, Dean College of Veterinary Science and Co. PI Dr. Sushil Prasad, Chairman Department of Agronomy Dr. R. Thakur, Chairman Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding Dr. Z. A. Haider, Chairman Department of Soil Science Dr. D. K. Shahi attended the lecture. During the Lecture, attendees shared opinions, thoughts and suggestions for consideration the sustainable agriculture. Dr. M. S. Malik a Principal Investigator NAHEP-CAAST-IFS (Integrated Farming System), Birsa Agricultural University were on hand to open the Guest Lecture Programme focused on the objective how the M.Sc and Ph.D students are promoted for higher education, advanced technical training, exposure visits at National and International institutes for up-gradation of their knowledge’s and skill in various IFS model.

Dr. B. K. Agarwal welcome the Guest speaker Dr. Biswapati Mandal, Professor of Soil Science and Former Pro. Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal, India a renowned personality by presenting a bouquet.



The keynote speaker was Dr. Biswapati Mandal focused on the major problem of today's Soil status, why production is declining? He discussed few major points which are responsible for the declination of the production. He started his lecture with the Kanedian Prophase "If we die, we are buried in Soil, If Soil dies". The main emphasis of the lecture was given on how we are mishandling the soil, where we are doing mistakes. From last 50 years we are doing something that soil is dying and we don't know to harvest our nature. He said if we really love the soil like our children then we should be concerned about the well being, we should take care of the Soil. Soil degradation is the global problems, in global picture India is in deep crisis. We need India to take proper care of soil. Soil Security is in central of Food security, Energy sustainability, Human health, Biodiversity, Climate change and Water security. He also discussed about the soil series of India. In India approx 300 soil series are available among them 90 are n danger and 25 are in extinct. Amount of soil loss per year is approx 6 billion ton and average amount of soil erosion are 16.3 ton per hectare per year. Dr. Mandal was very serious about the status of soil degradation in India. He discussed the reason of soil degradation like small size land holder, resource poor farmer and poor land. He told that "Poor soil, make poor people and poor people make the soil worse". Any land degradation can be rehabilitate in an year in USA but in India it is not possible. He discussed some initiative by government for up keeping soil, these are: During green revolution we didn't take care of soil and focused only on production and at that time maximum soil loss took place, Unlocking the secrets of soil lots of project are going on to improve the soil health like CCARI (Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute) at Goa, Indian soil scientist is not contributing any technology to improve the soil health, Number of Soil testing lab in India is approx 1244, the annual capacity of soil testing is 10 million samples but only 60% of capacity is utilized, Number of cultivated farm holding capacity is approx 140 million, like this it will take 23 years to cover all the farm holding of the country.

Dr. Mandal discussed some major points in context of Jharkhand like, in Jharkhand if we use Carbon, then the grain yield is increased by 62%, Use Farm Yard Manure as an ameliorant for Acid Soil, First we should know the target, then should be planned to achieve the target, Carbon decomposes very fast, so it is very difficult to apply Carbon, If we don't allow Carbon to Oxidised then soil will be dead, The amount taken by the sun can be given back to soil, Plant breeder can increase Harvest Index etc.

The main objectives of the lecture of Dr. Mandal was to improve the soil status, he also focused that the scientist should work on different soil parameters also try to find out the methods by

which they can improve the quality of soil and stop the soil degradation. He told that if we will not take soil degradation as serious issue then it will become our Global problem. We have to take care of our soil as we take care of our children and our grand children. He requested to the soil scientist to work on Soil to stop the degradation and to improve the soil status, not to only focus to increase the production of crop but to focus to improve the soil health. At last he said that if the soil will be healthy then only production will increase in a regular pattern otherwise first the production will increase and as soil health decreases the production will also decrease.

Sessions lasted for 90 minutes. After the completion of the lecture the session was open for the discussion, in which all the students and scientist took part and cleared their query regarding Soil degradation issue and how we can come over this.

The lecture was concluded by Dr. Arvind Kumar which gave the vote of thanks to the Guest

Dr. Biswapati Mandal and presented a Shawl by the PI of the project Dr. M. S. Malik, and also thanked to him for organizing such an educational lecture for students and Scientist to enhance their knowledge also thanked to the students who attended the lecture.

ब्रीफ न्यूज



राष्ट्रीय मृदा नीति शीघ्र लागू हो : प्रो मंडल

रांची. मृदा वैज्ञानिक व बिधानचंद्र कृषि विवि के पूर्व कुलपति प्रो विश्वपति मंडल ने कहा है कि देश में यथा शीघ्र राष्ट्रीय मृदा नीति लागू करने और मृदा स्वास्थ्य प्रबंधन पर पर्याप्त विनियोग करने की आवश्यकता है, ताकि भावी पीढ़ियों के लिए स्वस्थ मृदा बचायी जा सके. प्रो मंडल गुरुवार को बिरसा कृषि विवि में विशिष्ट व्याख्यानमाला श्रृंखला के तहत मृदा स्वास्थ्य नियमन : कुछ अव्यवस्थित विचार विषय पर व्याख्यान दे रहे थे. उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में मृदा स्वास्थ्य प्रबंधन के लिए कोई प्रभावी नीति या कार्यक्रम नहीं है. अमेरिका में केवल दो प्रतिशत किसान हैं, यूरोप में चार प्रतिशत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया में तीन से चार प्रतिशत किसान हैं. लेकिन वहां मृदा नीति है. जबकि भारत की आबादी में 56 प्रतिशत किसान होने के बावजूद यहाँ मृदा स्वास्थ्य पर सरकार और नीति नियामकों का अपेक्षित ध्यान नहीं है. डॉ डीके शाही ने मृदा विज्ञान में डॉ मंडल के योगदान की चर्चा की. डॉ एमएस मालिक ने कास्ट परियोजना के उद्देश्यों पर प्रकाश डाला. संचालन डॉ बीके अग्रवाल ने व धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डॉ अरविंद कुमार ने किया.

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